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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

O God, our Father, who in the ancient days led people to Your truth, draw us to the paths that lead to life. Lord, strengthen our lawmakers for today's work. May they place what is good for our Nation above partisan concerns and party loyalty. Give them the faith and courage to seek to build a world that fosters unity and cooperation and eliminates suspicion and distrust. Take from them distracting worries, as You infuse them with greater trust in You. Make them satisfied to serve You with faithfulness, seeking to please You in all that they say and do.

We pray in the Redeemer's name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 23, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator

from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we expect to extend morning business until 4 o'clock. We only have consent now to do it until 3 o'clock. We will return later for that.

During the time of morning business, we will have 10-minute speeches by Senators. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 1388, a bill to reauthorize and reform national service laws. At 6 p.m. this evening we will vote on a motion to invoke cloture on a filibuster preventing us from proceeding to H.R. 1388.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 1586 and S. 651

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding that two bills are at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the titles of the bills for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1586) to impose an additional tax on bonuses received from certain TARP recipients.

A bill (S. 651) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose an excise tax on excessive bonuses paid by, and received from, companies receiving emergency economic assistance, to limit the amount of nonqualified deferred compensation that employees of such companies may defer from taxation, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to these bills en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The bills will be placed on the calendar.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, at 4 p.m. today we are going to proceed to the national service legislation. I ask unanimous consent that the period for morning business be extended until 4 p.m., under the condition of the previous order; that the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 1388 at 4 p.m., with the time until 6 p.m. equally divided and controlled between Senators MIKULSKI and ENZI, the managers of the bill, or their designees; that the 10 minutes immediately prior to the 6 p.m. vote be controlled equally between the leaders or their designees; that at 6 p.m., the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed; further, that if cloture is invoked, then postcloture time continue to run during any period of morning business, recess, or adjournment of the Senate; further, that the remaining provisions of the previous order continue to be in effect.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

SERVE AMERICA ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this afternoon we are going to begin work on the national service legislation. My message to the Senate today is that we are going to finish this legislation this week. We have to. We must start on the budget next week. This is bipartisan legislation. Senators HATCH, KENNEDY, and others have worked very hard on this legislation. There is no

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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